

From: Doug Needham
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:44pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern

Pursuant to the Tunney Act, I am writing to comment on the proposed settlement of the United States vs. Microsoft antitrust case.

My Background is in software development.

I have been a software developer since I ended my enlistment in the Marine Corps.

One of the things that disturbs me about the proposed settlement is that it does very little to actually stop Microsoft from continuing to do the things that they have done.

I remember a time when it was possible for a person with a good Idea and some programming ability to create something new and begin to package and sell a unique software product .

It is still possible to do this so long as you pledge allegiance to Microsoft and pay them exorbitant fees as the price of entry into the professional development community.

The products they make are not the best, they are the only thing out there because so many businesses refuse to build any software product on a non-Microsoft solution.

Where are the compilers for Windows applications?

They do not exist because software projects that attempted to produce a competing product were cut off by Microsofts changing or not fully documenting their

Application Programming Interface (API). Microsoft has repeatedly and unashamedly refused to obey orders given to them by the DOJ. They laugh at the governments power to stop them. They do not respect lawful authority and fair competition.

This has got to be stopped.

Please count this as a no vote on the proposed settlement and a yes vote to the independent software developers who will be allowed to develop unique non-Microsoft solutions to business problems, and then actually have an opportunity to sell their solutions to corporate America without fear of incompatibilities.

Sincerely,
Doug Needham
Independent Software Consultant.